

Education Committee

March 7, 2011

S.B. No. 1106 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EARLY EDUCATION AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT.

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education  
Committee,

My name is Naomi Mitchell, and I'm a home based-child care provider in Hartford. I  
love children and I love being a child care provider, but dealing with the Care4Kids  
program has made it hard for providers like myself to provide the best possible care for  
our children. And it has also made it hard for many qualified, caring providers to remain  
in the profession.

The paperwork requirements for Care4Kids can be very complicated- so much so that I  
don't even participate in the food program since filling out the various forms for my kids  
who live in different towns would require an unreasonable amount of time- time which  
I'd rather spend teaching and playing with the children.

And I've stopped mailing or faxing in forms to Care4Kids, since too many times my  
paperwork would be lost-resulting in late subsidy payments. I now have to spend time  
and gas money driving to their offices and hand-delivering my paperwork- along with the  
paperwork of another provider who has dealt with these same problems as well.

And it's not just providers who suffer from these problems. I know many wonderful providers with excellent early-learning programs in their home who simply won't take subsidized children because of the hassles. The more providers who make this decision, the less options there are for subsidized kids- many of whom end up in less-than-desirable situations.

If providers had an official voice with the state through this bill, we would be able to work directly with Care4Kids to improve the system as it currently stands. And making it easier for providers would lead to more time being spent with children and less time on paperwork and more providers accepting subsidized kids. This in turn would lead to improved quality throughout the entire state.

Sincerely

Naomi Mitchell

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